



THE Bugler



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Armed Forces Retirement Home
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Colors of Spring



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AFRH Mirror Image-“One Model Process”

One of our top corporate initiatives is the development of the AFRH "One Model Process." We as an Agency are moving out on this initiative to support the spirit and intent of the President's Agenda. When fully implemented, this plan will result in streamlined processes that are standardized at both Homes; eliminate layering; reduce distance between service-delivery and decision-makers; determine "core competencies" and decide whether to build internal capacity, or outsource; improve services to our residents and require accountability for results. As we proceed through the planning stages of this major initiative we are focusing not only on how we currently do business, but also how we want to do business in the future. The One Model Process is actually a blueprint that will help get us where we need to go.

Earlier this year, both Homes submitted their initial input to the corporate



AFRH unveils the new logo that will be utilized by both campuses.

One Model Process. The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) has

reviewed both Homes' submissions, identified areas requiring additional data, and asked the Homes to again review their proposals to fine tune their submissions. The Office of the COO is now in receipt of the two Homes' final input and is actively meshing the two submissions into one corporate process.

The first One Model Process briefed to employees and residents was the proposed Health Care Services model. Along with the unveiling of the new model came the announcement that Dr. Linda Rader has been selected to fill the senior position of Health Services Administrator effective March 9, 2002.

Our success in achieving the "One Model Process" requires the commitment of all in order to change our operating model from "Survive" to "Thrive" in the 21st Century.

THE BUGLER

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The Bugler is an authorized publication of the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington.

Residents and employees are encouraged to submit photos, art, news items, and features. Materials will be edited by *The Bugler* staff for journalistic style and length.

Direct communication with the Public Affairs Officer or editor regarding story

ideas and submissions is recommended.

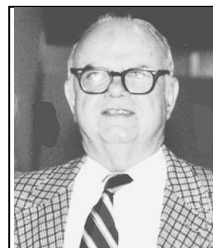
Editorial views and opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of AFRH-W, the Director or the staff.

Please be aware that any mistakes in this publication are there for a purpose; we publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for errors.

Welcome to the AFRH-W campus!

Anselmo Chavez	U. S. Air Force	Albuquerque, NM
Leroy Cougle	U.S. Navy	Media, PA
Robert Halkin	U.S. Navy	Sarasota, FL
Michael Martinez	U.S. Navy	Las Cruces, NM
Opie Miller	U.S. Army	Nacogdoches, TX
David Nokes	U.S. Navy	Washington, DC
Richard Pastirchak	U.S. Air Force	Pittsburgh, PA
John Ramsey	U.S. Navy	Wilmington, NC
James Richards	U.S. Air Force	Tampa, FL
Lorenzo Senires	U.S. Navy	Cebu, PI
Stella Shelton	U.S. Army	Houston, TX
Wayne Smith	U.S. Air Force	Ely, MN
Ferdinand Stauch	U.S. Army	Indianapolis, IN
Leon Watson	U.S. Air Force	Corrigan, TX

A special thanks to those residents who volunteer their services too show new and prospective residents around our campus. Harold Eby, Mike George, Harris Bircher, Jo Colvard, Lee Miggins, Don Egolf, John Tuggle, Bob Armstrong, Charles Bronson, Jim Connors, Bud Jackson and Norman Godfrey. We would also like to thank Mike Longwell for following up on all prospective residents.



*"The
Editor's
Corner"*

Amnesty

Amnesty – A general pardon granted by a government, especially for political offenses.

My Definition

Amnesty – A general pardon by an individual or group. The most important thing is that it is complete forgiveness for all wrongs real or imagined, known or unknown against the person or group granting it.. The only requirement for the person(s) accepting the *amnesty* is that they do accept it and also grant *amnesty* to the individual or group granting them *amnesty*.

The idea of *amnesty* is surely not a new one. For many years I did a piece based on *amnesty* every holiday season. The purpose was to bring family members together by forgiving and forgetting. We in the Armed Forces Retirement Homes are a family. How about it? What a beautiful way to give ourselves a fresh start.

We have an outstanding newspaper this month. Realize that Sheila Abarr, Acting PAO has done all the work of putting this paper together. Shelia is essentially alone in the Public Affairs Office, and with the assistance of the writers and other volunteers has done and is doing a herculean job. Not only with the newspaper, but with all aspects of the PAO function. **Thanks Shelia, writers, and volunteers.**

Note the article on the facing page. We are the history, and unless we tell our stories our history will be no more.

Read the "Veterans Benefit Cuts on Hold..." and the "American Legion Renews Fight for Retirees" articles on Page 5. Realize that the veterans' organizations are fighting for us. -20-

VETERANS "HISTORY" PROJECTS

Library of Congress Strives To Document Veterans History

There are 19 million war veterans living in the United States today, but every day we lose 1,500 of them. Motivated by a desire to honor our nation's war veterans for their service and to collect their stories and experiences while they are still among us, the United States Congress created the Veterans History Project. The authorizing legislation, sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000. Public Law 106-380 calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories, along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them.

The Veterans History Project covers World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. It includes all participants in those wars--men and women, civilian and military. It documents the contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff, and war industry workers as well as the experiences of military personnel

from all ranks and all branches of service--the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

The Veterans History Project is issuing a special call to women veterans, defense workers, wartime volunteers, entertainers, and home front supporters to record their personal stories and experiences for long-term preservation in the Library of Congress and other trusted repositories.

The call comes from Veterans History Project Director Ellen McCulloch-Lovell. Ms. Lovell said, "there is no more fitting time to honor our women veterans and those women who served and supported our armed forces on the home front." Noting that the sacrifices of these women have been largely overlooked, Ms. Lovell has asked students, family members, veterans, civic groups, and professional organizations to "volunteer a little time to interview men and women who participated in America's 20th century wars."

AFRH-W residents wishing to participate in this project, may submit their contact information to the Public Affairs Office located in the Sherman Building Annex. For more information call PAO at ext. 3043.

Name:

Building & room number:

Phone number:

Branch of Service:

Years in Service:

War Theaters:

CONSUMER NEWS

Internet Fraud Triples

RICHMOND, VA – The Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) released its annual Internet Fraud Report today showing that, on behalf of victims, IFCC referred 48,252 fraud complaints to federal, state and/or local law enforcement authorities last year. This referral rate is triple the number of referrals (16,775) in 2001. The report also states that the total dollar loss from all referred fraud cases was \$54 million, up from \$17 million in 2001.

The 2002 annual report offers a recap of Internet crime hot spots by state, statistical information, and victim demographic data gleaned through complaints IFCC has received and referred through its on-line Web portal located at www.ifccfbi.gov from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002. In 2002, complaints filed with IFCC totaled 75,063.

"IFCC helps victims by putting fraud information into the hands of law enforcement and then fosters inter-agency cooperation so these complaints are responded to quickly," said Assistant Director Jana Monroe of the FBI's Cyber Division.

For the third straight year, Internet auction fraud was the most reported offense, comprising 46% of referred complaints. Non-delivery of merchandise and non-payment accounted for 31% of complaints, and credit/debit card fraud made up nearly 12% of complaints. Among victims who reported a dollar loss, the highest median dollar losses were found among Nigerian letter fraud (\$3,864), identity theft (\$2,000), and check fraud (\$1,100) complainants.

California, New York, Florida, Texas, and Illinois were the top five states for victims of Internet crime. In cases where the perpetrator has been

identified, nearly four in five were male and over half resided in the states of California, New York, Florida, Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

IFCC processed an additional 36,920 complaints on computer intrusions, unsolicited e-mail (SPAM), child pornography, and other violations of law. For computer-related filings but which are not considered Internet fraud, IFCC referred these to agencies and organizations that handle those particular complaints.

IFCC has aggressively developed partnerships with agencies to enhance its ability to quickly serve victims of fraud and cyber crime. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the FBI's Innocent Images task force, the National Infrastructure Protection Center, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Secret Service are regular recipients of IFCC complaint information.

Only one in four complainants contacted a law enforcement agency about their victimization prior to filing a complaint with IFCC.

"As on-line usage continues to climb, consumer education must focus not only on preventive strategies, but also on where an individual can turn for help. IFCC is in a position to handle just such an effort to help victims and assist law enforcement," said Richard L. Johnston, Director of the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).

Operational since May 2000, IFCC is co-managed by NW3C (www.nw3c.org) and the FBI (www.fbi.gov). IFCC is an on-line resource to file Internet fraud complaints that will be referred to law enforcement authorities that have the ability to initiate a case on the consumer's behalf.

Internet Auction Fraud

°Understand as much as possible about how the auction works, what your obligations are as a buyer, and what the seller's obligations are before you bid.

°Find out what actions the web site/company takes if a problem occurs and consider insuring the transaction and shipment.

°Learn as much as possible about the seller, especially if the only information you have is an e-mail address. If it is a business, check the

°Better Business Bureau where the seller/business is located.

°Examine the feedback on the seller.

°Determine what method of payment the seller is asking from the buyer and where he/she is asking to send payment.

°If a problem occurs with the auction transaction, it could be much more difficult if the seller is located outside the US because of the difference in laws.

°Ask the seller about when delivery can be expected and if there is a problem with the merchandise is it covered by a warranty or can you exchange it.

°Find out if shipping and delivery are included in the auction price or are additional costs so there are no unexpected costs.

°There should be no reason to give out your social security number or drivers license number to the seller.

VETERAN NEWS

Veterans Benefit Cuts on Hold for Now

WASHINGTON, D.C. Cuts in veterans benefits are off the table -- for now. Leaders of the nation's three largest veterans organizations today praised members of Congress who fought alongside them to keep veterans' health care, pensions and disability compensation off the chopping block.

Under an agreement brokered by House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith, House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle agreed to "accept a level of discretionary and mandatory spending for veterans programs at least as high as reported by the Senate Budget Committee." The House-approved spending plan provides an approximate \$3 billion increase for veterans health care as well as maintaining mandatory spending for veterans compensation and benefits.

"For the freedom we cherish, the nation owes a debt of gratitude to patriots

past and present, and cutting veterans benefits is no way to pay that debt," American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley said. "I commend all members of Congress who oppose cutting veterans benefits, particularly in this time of war. I especially thank Chairman Chris Smith and VA Health Subcommittee Chairman Rob Simmons. They worked tirelessly to exempt veterans benefits from across-the-board cuts that were in the Budget Committee's resolution."

"When the chips are down, that's when you get to know who your true friends are," said Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander in Chief Ray Sisk. "There is no doubt Chairman Smith is a friend of America's veterans."

"America's veterans are grateful to those members of the House who stood by them in opposing deep cuts in veterans programs," said Edward R. Heath Sr.,

National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. "They are to be commended for the courage of their convictions."

Joining Chairman Smith and Rep. Simmons were fellow Republicans Rick Renzi of Arizona, Michael Bilirakis of Florida, Walter B. Jones of North Carolina and Charles W. Pickering Jr. of Mississippi.

In an apparently persuasive March 14 letter to congressional leadership, the veterans advocates wrote: "Congress must rethink drastic cuts in benefits and services for disabled veterans at a time when we have thousands of our service members in harm's way fighting terrorism around the world and when we are sending thousands more of our sons and daughters to fight a war against Iraq."

American Legion Renews Fight for Retirees

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The military retiree is still the only federal retiree who receives a cut in retired pay equal to the amount of his or her disability compensation. The American Legion today renewed its fight to change that inequity alongside the U.S. Senate's leading champion of the cause, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada.

If we have enough money to rebuild Baghdad, then we have enough money to put an end to this travesty," American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley said. The American Legion applauds both Senator Reid and Rep. Mike Bilirakis for introducing legislation that would allow military retirees with service-connected disabilities to collect every dime this nation owes them. The law needs to be changed not only for the sake of equity. The government must keep its promise to pay all military retirees 50 per-

cent of their active-duty base pay. It's wrong to cut retired pay for the men and women who suffer from the lingering wounds of their sacrifice.

We are reminded daily, particularly from Iraq and Afghanistan, of our troops' sacrifice of life and limb. Many of them are career military service members. Those who survive mortal combat and who retire from the military should not be penalized for getting shot or otherwise injured in the war on terrorism.

In the last session, 402 House members and 83 senators co-sponsored concurrent-receipt legislation to allow service-disabled military retirees to receive their full retired pay and full disability compensation. Congress, the American people and career military, on whose behalf we're fighting, know that enacting this legislation is the right thing to do. It would help immeasurably if the White House, which

the Legion fully supports in the war, would not threaten to veto the legislation this time.

The 2003 defense authorization approved a special pay for military retirees who were awarded the Purple Heart or who have incurred disabilities related to combat or combat training rated at 60 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs. An estimated 10,000 to 35,000 service-connected military retirees would be affected, leaving more than a half-million, in effect, penalized for suffering a disability in military service to this nation.

A law forbidding military service members from simultaneously receiving full base pay and full disability compensation was enacted in 1892. A law barring military retirees from collecting both full disability and full retired pay was enacted in 1944.

A LOOK BACK

The Great Depression

By Ludwig Olson

Relatively few AFRH residents are old enough to remember the Great Depression of the 1930's and the severe impact it had on peoples' lives. I'm now getting close to 87 and can recall the depression years fairly well.

It was October, 1929. One of my eighth-grade classmates in De Pere, Wisc., had a newspaper with a headline in extra-large bold print: Stock Market Crash! Many people not involved with the stock market gave that headline only ho-hum attention. They didn't realize it was like setting off a bomb that shattered the economy. Its unfavorable effect was felt for many years until almost the beginning of America's involvement in World War II.

A number of people made high-risk stock market investments such as "buying on margin" (borrowing money from a broker to finance part of a stock purchase). The disadvantage of margin buying is that if the investment loses money, the buyer absorbs the total loss but must still pay back the loan. Many wealthy investors lost everything they had overnight, and that resulted in a rash of suicides.

The stock market crash had a chain-like effect on a large number of businesses. My father was a real estate and insurance agent for many years, but couldn't make a go of it because money became extremely tight. People didn't have money to invest, and banks were hesitant to make loans. Banks and other money lenders foreclosed on many homeowners and farmers who were unable to make mortgage payments.

To compound the financial misery, bank accounts were not insured by the Federal Government. The De Pere mayor, a highly-respected man who was also the town banker, secretly used bank funds to invest in the stock market. When the market crashed, he lost \$40,000, a very large sum of money in those days. Bank examiners discovered that the money was missing, and the banker was jailed. That news



The Olson home in DePere, Wisc. prior to start of The Great Depression.

made headlines.

My father traded our place in De Pere for a grocery store in Appleton. We lived in the apartment above the store. Chain stores were becoming popular at that time, and they gave independent stores like ours unbearable competition. After a year or so, my father leased our store to a firm that used it as a distributing warehouse for cookies and crackers.

I became friendly with the driver of the cookie truck, and he let me ride with him on his daily route. One day the driver had an appendicitis attack, but he came to work for fear he'd lose his job. I had never driven a vehicle before. However, I took over for him because he was doubled over with pain. The 1.5 ton International truck had an old stick shift with several speeds forward and had to be double-clutched. As I was shifting into second, a loud ominous noise came from the truck. The driver yelled "Don't grind the gears, kid, you'll ruin the transmission!" We managed to complete that trip after a fashion, but it was an ordeal like pulling hind teeth.

A few years after we moved to Appleton, there was news that one of our old neighbors in De Pere committed suicide. He had lost \$10,000, his entire life savings, due to a bank failure. That sad

event made a great impact on me. When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time in his blacksmith shop. He treated me in a fatherly manner and taught me how to use tools and make things, skills that proved of great benefit later on.

My father worked as a finishing carpenter after he leased out our store. He was a carpenter during his early career, and was especially adept at that trade. Although he was skilled, wages were extremely low during the depression years. On some days, he earned only a dollar or two. I helped him on some carpenter projects and became familiar with the trade. People without cash paid us in food. Potatoes and rutabagas (turnips) were piled up in our basement. Some weekends we had beefsteak, a real treat. A large number of people without jobs lived on county welfare. They went weekly to a food bank to pick up sacks of groceries.

Not many new items were purchased. Clothing was mostly hand-me-downs, and cars were repaired to keep them in service. Homeowners learned how to make plumbing and electrical repairs. A common name for those who worked on

Continued on page 13

HEALTH NEWS

Protecting Yourself Against the Sun

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, more than 1 million people will be diagnosed with cases of skin cancer this year in the United States. Applying sunscreen and limiting your sun exposure can reduce your risk for skin cancer. So can wearing sun-protective clothing.

It's important to understand the labeling information on sun protection products and shop carefully before heading to the beach, tennis court or park. The Federal Trade Commission carefully monitors advertising claims in this area and offers this information to help you make wise purchasing decisions.

Sun-protective fabrics differ from typical summer fabrics in several ways. Sun-protective fabrics typically have a tighter weave or knit and usually are darker in color. Garments made with these fabrics may have a label listing the garment's Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) value, that is, the level of protection the garment provides from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. The higher the UPF, the higher the UV protection.

The UPF rating indicates how much of the sun's UV radiation is absorbed by the fabric. For example, a fabric with a UPF rating of 20 allows 1/20th of the sun's UV radiation to pass through it. This means that the fabric would reduce your skin's UV radiation exposure by 20 times where it's protected by the fabric.

There are three categories of UPF protection:

°A UPF between 15 and 24 provides "Good UV Protection;"

°A UPF between 25 and 39 provides "Very Good UV Protection;" and

°A UPF between 40 and 50 provides "Excellent UV Protection."

Garments with a rating above UPF 50 may be labeled UPF 50+; however,

they may not offer substantially more protection than those with a UPF of 50. Also, a garment shouldn't be labeled "sun-protective" or "UV-protective" if its UPF is less than 15. In addition, sun-protective clothing may lose its effectiveness if it's too tight or stretched out, damp or wet, and worn and washed repeatedly.

You may see labels on sun-protective garments stating that the garment meets standards developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Tips for Sun Safety

Here are some other ways to make working and playing outdoors sun-safe.

Wear sunglasses to reduce sun exposure that can lead to cataracts and other eye damage.

Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your eyes, ears, face and the back of your neck - areas that are prone to overexposure to the sun.

Use sunscreen before you go out, and reapply every two hours if you've been perspiring or swimming. Even waterproof sunscreens can come off when you towel off sweat or water. Be aware that children under six months of age should never have sunscreen applied to their skin; they can be protected by avoiding time outdoors.

Try to avoid the midday sun when the sun's UV rays are strongest.

Pay attention to the UV Index, which provides a forecast of the expected risk of overexposure to the sun and indicates the degree of caution you should take when working, playing or exercising outdoors. The UV Index predicts exposure levels on a scale of 0 to 10+. A 0 indicates a low risk of overexposure; 10+ means a very high risk of overexposure.

TOP TEN TIPS FOR AVOIDING SKIN AND NAIL DISORDERS OF THE FEET

1. Toenails should be trimmed straight across so they are no longer than the tip of the toes. Do not round off the corners, which could allow nails to grow into the skin.

2. A podiatrist should evaluate any discoloration or redness around or under a toenail.

3. Washing the feet with mild soap and water and remembering to dry well, especially between the toes, will help prevent fungal or yeast infections.

4. Shoes, socks or hosiery should be worn and changed daily.

5. Make sure pedicure instruments at a beauty salon are sterilized properly, or bring your own.

6. Don't apply polish to toenails that are discolored or swollen.

7. Shower shoes or flip-flops should be worn in public areas such as gym locker rooms and showers to prevent fungal infections.

8. Soaking your feet in warm water with Epsom salts (unless you have diabetes) or applying a spray or roll-on antiperspirant on the bottom of the feet can decrease perspiration.

9. Wear properly fitted and supportive shoes on a daily basis. It's best to shop for shoes in the afternoon when feet tend to swell. If your feet are two different sizes, buy the shoe that fits the larger foot to limit or reduce corns and calluses.

10. Rinse the shower with a mixture of bleach and hot water once a week to reduce the transfer of fungal infections between family members.

SPRING TIME





**Photos courtesy
of Charles Felder**



AFRH HISTORY

SNAFU

by Ray Colvard

The acronym SNAFU had not been invented in the early 1850s but the process was evident at the Military Asylum at Washington during the construction of its first building. Names, alterations and additions have been added since Lieutenant Barton Alexander left it in 1855. Conjecture is that the elaborate stairway entrance and vestibule were added before the building was opened for the residents in 1857. Many residents have since walked through the vestibule without seeing the cryptic lettering engraved in stones. Over entrance to the tower, "A GRATEFUL COUNTRY/ TO/ ITS DEFENDERS ". Inside the vestibule south wall is: "A.D.1855." Above the the east window of the vestibule is, " B.F. ALEXANDER/ ARCHITECT, and over the west wall window, " GILBERT CAMERON/ BUILDER." One may sense the stones as enigmatic messengers.

The markers could have been placed by Barton Alexander, Gilbert Cameron, Barton's assistant Joel Donner-- or most unlikely Winfield Scott or Jefferson Davis. Colonel Paul Goode wrote in his History of the Soldiers Home: "General Scott, after he lost the election (1852) moved his headquarters to New York, with the approval of the new President for whom he had only the friendliest of feelings. However the same warm feeling did not exist between the General-in-Chief of the Army and the new Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis. It is a pity that two such outstanding men should cherish for each other such bitter animosity. Davis, a graduate of West Point, wounded while commanding a regiment under Taylor in the Mexican War, was a cold, humorless and precise martinet; but he was a great Secretary of War and under him, the Army improved tremendously. Scott, a stubborn, pompous and proud

man, was probably the ablest military leader since Washington. Trouble between these two was not long in coming."

The "trouble" ie. SNAFU seems to have centered about the 1855 date. It may have evolved from the conflict of massive egos of Winfield Scott and Jefferson Davis. Human behaviorists have observed that strong men at times behave as if they were missing a few cards from a full deck and or are a few bricks short a ton. Good sense evaporates if alpha-males snort, paw the ground and assert their dominance. The Scott-Davis feud became part of Soldiers' Home history, a kind of "mini war" that was of no concern to Home residents except, perhaps as in the old Hungarian peasant saying, "When elephants dance in the barnyard chickens are at risk."

It is ironic that the two men that were most important in establishing the Home were political and Army enemies. When construction was begun on the "Main" building of the Asylum Scott had served on active Army duty from 1807, since 1841 the Army's Commanding General. Davis, as Senator from Mississippi was a strong supporter of the Army. Davis, with his friend, Robert Anderson, wrote the legislation that in 1851 became the Soldiers' Home "Magna Charta." The "Magna Charta" was reason for General Scott to use some of the money collected "in lieu of plunder" at Vera Cruz to establish the Military Asylum's Fund. It appears that having Davis as his superior in the War Department was for General Scott an insufferable affront.

General Scott was big in ambition, ego and girth. In 1852 he ran for President for the second time on the Whig ticket. He failed to get the nomination in 1848. His rival, "Old Rough and Ready" Zachary Taylor was nominated and elected. President Taylor died in office after serving sixteen months. Scott was nominated in 1852 but lost the election so

decisively his Whig Party disappeared from national politics. As Colonel Goode pointed out, The Democrat winner, Franklin Pierce, friend, admirer" of General Scott, named Jefferson Davis as Secretary of War. From 1853 to 1857 Davis, Secretary of War, and Scott, General of the Army, would dispute as to whom would rule the Army, and manage the Soldiers' Home.

From high school history we may recall that the Mexican War created the heroes: "Old Fuss and Feathers" Winfield Scott and "Old Rough and Ready" Zachary Taylor. General Scott resented the fact the Whig convention chose, in 1848, a man so apolitical that he had never voted. Then, when he was the Whig candidate in 1852, advised their friends to vote for the Democrat Franklin Pierce rather than the Whig Winfield Scott. Pierce was "a Northern Man with Southern Principles."

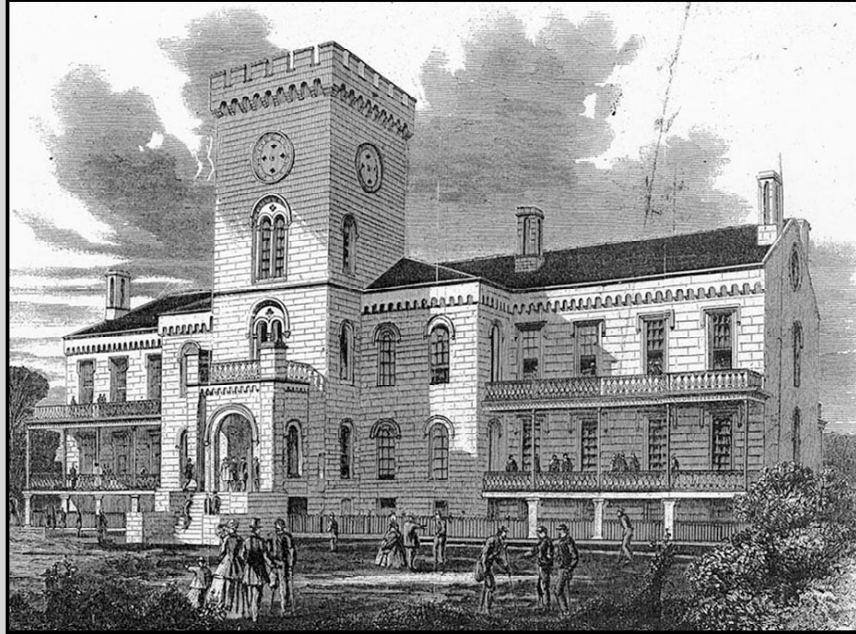
It is noteworthy that Winfield Scott had had his eye on the White House as early as 1841. That year Major General of the Army Alexander Macomb died. President Tyler's Secretary of War was aware of The General's political ambitions and had assumed Scott was not interested in being named Major General of the Army. Scott was furious. He claimed the promotion was rightfully his, not to be determined by a politician. By right, he told the Secretary, he should have been named General of the Army in 1829 when John Quincy Adams had given the promotion to Macomb. Secretary of War Bell, to appease Scott, sent the note to President Tyler on June 25, 1841, "Brigadier-General Winfield Scott, Major-General by brevet, to be Major-General June 23, 1841, vice Major-General McComb, deceased." Whether or not General Scott planned to remain the Commanding General of the Army while he served as President of the United States can is not known.

To what extent the absentee role of the Chairman of the Soldiers' Home Board

concerned Home management is moot. In 1851 Scott cast the decisive vote to purchase the Riggs estate for the site of the Home, and again in 1852, his vote determined acceptance of the plans by Barton Alexander for the main building. It is obvious that the Asylum, was not among the great man's primary concerns. The social life enjoyed by the General in New York offered far greater satisfaction than could be had in Washington.

When President Pierce named Jefferson Davis as his Secretary of War in 1853 General Scott once again moved his office to New York. Neither Davis nor Pierce protested. It was not the ideal situation for residents of the Asylum since, as Chairman, General Scott made the Board's decisions. The President may have known nothing of the Home and of his Secretary's interest in it. Franklin Pierce was a man of good will. He may not have recognized the hatred Scott and Davis held for each other. (One will recall that after the Civil War former President Pierce visited "traitor" Jefferson Davis in prison at Fort Monroe and influenced the public to demand his torture be lifted.) President Pierce may have believed in 1853 that, his friends working together, would develop mutual esteem. But to General Scott, Jefferson Davis was "Taylor Person." Davis had commanded a regiment under General Taylor in the Mexican War, was wounded, and was Taylor's son in law.

The crisis came in 1855. Friends of Winfield Scott in Congress passed a joint resolution to revive the rank of Lieutenant General of the Army, last held by George Washington. Scott had served forty-eight years as an officer, sixteen as the Army's Commanding General. Much to the disgust of the Secretary of War, President Pierce confirmed it, over the objections stated by Davis. In 1855 Winfield Scott was promoted to Lieutenant General, and a generous gesture of respect for his old



The Sherman Building was known as the Military Asylum Washington, DC 1867.

commander, President Pierce set the promotion date as March 29, 1847, the day of Scott's triumph at Vera Cruz. Scott found it difficult to maintain his social status among the New York elite and appreciated his salary increase. Moreover, since he in 1855 became, by order of the President, Lieutenant General from 1847, he was entitled to about a hundred month's back pay. Again over Davis's protest President Pierce authorized payment. A check for \$10,465.67 was issued to Scott, the difference in the pay of Major General and Lieutenant General.

In the years Jefferson Davis was Secretary of War, General Scott seldom came to Washington. He rarely met with the Board of Commissioners. He disputed directives from the Secretary of War and refused to recognize him as superior in the Army chain of command. According to Scott's biographer, Charles Winslow Elliot, the Davis-Scott feud became a "national scandal." Elliot notes that the

collection of letters between Scott and Davis were "the depth of scurrility" In book form the letters would fill 354 pages with "acrid hatred of the other." A Davis biographer stated that military and political observers expected the controversy would lead to a duel.

One will recall, Scott was nearly 70 and Davis was 47, Davis would have been silly to challenge an old military monument. With pistols at twenty paces Jefferson Davis would have been hard to hit; Scott would have been difficult to miss. The better choice was a war with words.

Davis was a superb administrator and Scott had little respect for fiscal accounting. He disbursed whatever monies he had as he wished. One of Scott's biographers mentions the Soldiers' Home, "Scott's favorite contrivance was the Army Asylum, where he met and

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HOME FRONT

Clowns Bring Smile to faces of Wives, Mothers of Wounded Soldiers

By Rudi Williams

WASHINGTON, DC -Arianna Peel, 23, is grieving over the dire prognosis for her husband's full recovery from severe injuries suffered in a tragic vehicle accident in Saudi Arabia.

Merle A. Quinsaat, 45, is tormented about the severe injuries her son suffered when an accused soldier tossed a hand grenade into the tent where he was sleeping, then shot him, in Iraq.

But the two women set their grief aside for a while and smile, even laugh, when five clowns from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus visited them at the Fisher House on the hospital grounds.

The clowns had visited wounded patients from Iraq and the pediatrics department before coming to the Fisher House.

Quinsaat said her son, Army 1st Lt. Gian Amorsolo, 27, thought he was too old for a clown visit. "But I'm delighted to see some people other than people here at the Fisher House, where you talk about grievances and heartbreaking news every day," said Quinsaat, a real estate sales associate in San Diego.

"At least for a change we have some other group that comes in and makes us smile. It's like getting away from it for a while."

Quinsaat said her son left for the desert on March 9 with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, from Fort Campbell, Ky. He was wounded in the March 21 incident.

"It's a miracle he's alive," said the distressed mother, who has been living at the Fisher House for two weeks.

Quinsaat's mental pain was soothed a bit when her son was released from Walter Reed on April 11. He's being transferred to the Naval Medical Center in San

Diego.

Twenty-three-year-old Arianna Peel isn't so lucky, but she, too is praying for a miracle. Her husband, Army Spc. Dennis R. Peel, 30, suffered brain injuries, broken vertebrae, broken wrist and other serious injuries in the vehicle accident. He left Fort Bliss,

Texas, for Saudi Arabia on Sept. 7, 2002. His wife moved to Phoenix, Ariz., to live with a friend while he was in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He's going to be hospitalized a long time," said Peel, who arrived at the Fisher House on March 23, two days after her husband arrived at Walter Reed.

Calling the Fisher House and its staff, "awesome," Peel said, "They've done nothing but help me. They've provided me all the things that I had no idea they could. They've been very supportive, kind and warm people.

"I'm very thankful that Fisher House is here because I'm broke, and I could barely afford to come here," she said. "But I wanted to be with my husband."

Fisher Houses allows families of patients receiving medical care at major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers to stay in a family environment close



Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus clown Gregory Parks chats with Vivian Wilson, manager of the two Fisher Houses that serve Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

to the patient. There are 31 Fisher Houses in the United States and Germany.

Fisher House manager, Vivian L. Wilson, pointed out that guests are charged only \$10 per day for accommodations and they're provided "everything they would have at home." Wilson manages the Fisher House on the hospital grounds and the one at the Forest Glen section in nearby Silver Spring, Md.

"We provide them with staple items to get them through the evening or through the week until they get a chance to go to the commissary and procure real food – dinner-type food," Wilson noted. "We provide them with laundry detergent, washing machine and dryer – anything you'd have in a regular household.

"It allows them to have normalcy in an otherwise very tumultuous time of their lives," she said.

When guests arrive at a Fisher

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WRAP UP

The Great Depression

Continued from page 6

their own cars was "shade-tree mechanics." If a car didn't run properly after an amateur repaired it, a favorite comment was, "You shouldn't have tinkered with it!"

My father's favorite pastime during the winter was to be with his old Norwegian cronies sitting around a stove, puffing away on their pipes, and discussing events of the day. They usually spoke English, but with a pronounced Scandinavian accent. An oft-repeated say-

ing was, "Yah, if ve had only saved our money ven ve had had it!"

A retired machinist and his wife lost their home when the bank foreclosed on their mortgage. They bought a small low-cost lot outside the Appleton city limits, and built a one-room house on it. Their "plumbing" was a small building in the backyard. The house was built from cheap lumber, much of it scrap boards. It had a jackleg appearance. He admitted that he had almost no experience as a carpenter. The roof and exterior walls were covered with thin tarpaper. He gathered cardboard boxes for material to cover the interior. Two coal-burning stoves were used, one for cooking, the other for heating. Despite the severe Wisconsin winters, they kept fairly warm.

Their house was a meeting place for

shooters and hunters because he had a collection of old guns and loved to talk about them. He applied his mechanical skill to doing work on guns. I visited him often and learned a lot about guns and machine shop work. His happy-go-lucky manner helped make the visits pleasant.

I couldn't find a job after graduating from high school in 1935. I joined the Regular Army after serving six months in the Wisconsin National Guard.

President Roosevelt started various employment programs in attempts to recover from the depression, but they really didn't solve the problem. The breakthrough came in 1940 with a big defense program that provided jobs, and the Great Depression was finally over.

Snafu

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presided as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, meetings paid from Asylum funds." Scott may not have been present when the Board, on February 20, 1855, voted "to offer no objections to the assignment of Lieut. Alexander to Light House Duty." Obviously the Commissioners had no choice. This decision was made by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Treasury. The Board had no alternative to voiding Alexander's contract with the Soldiers' Home Board of Commissioners, and freeing him to build Minot's Light for the Treasury Department.

Lieutenant Barton's assistant and his contractor were hired by the Board to complete the building, under the direction of the Home's Board and Governor. The "Main Building" was opened in 1857. That year Democrat James Buchanan replaced Pierce as President and John

Floyd became Secretary of War. General Scott could peacefully come back to Washington. He invited Buchanan and Floyd to make Soldier's Home their summer residences.

From the time of the departure of Alexander in 1855 the Home Board waged its own feud with Gilbert Cameron. They sued; he countered sued. They lost, he won. The losers informed the Secretary of War, April 29, 1858 that the Court of Claims had ruled Cameron was due from them the sum of \$27,385.13 and the Commissioners wished to pay the monies "from funds heretofore appropriated for the Asylum." Board minutes of May 3, 1860 state, "The Commissioners, now in compliance with said instructions of the Secretary of War, do hereby appropriate out of the funds of the Soldiers' Home, the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Five Dollars and thirteen cents--\$27,385.13--for payment of said claim of Gilbert Cameron."

The vestibule to the Sherman South Building today reflects in stone, the SNAFU of its construction. The tower's center stone engraved "A grateful Country

to Her Defenders" has an archaic form and obscure message. It may have been meant to be a cornerstone. Was the statement to imply that the building was a gift from an entity other than the specific General Fund described in Jefferson's Senate Bill 392 (March 3, 1851)? On the vestibule's East wall is a reminder that politics prevented Barton Alexander from completing his building. On the West wall is the stone, probably set by Gilbert Cameron himself. One wonders why the Board members left intact, the 27-G marker.

Should residents or visitors leaving the Sherman South vestibule look up, rather than down or out, they will see the large stone engraved "A.D. 1855." The meaning is cryptic. If A.D. means active duty it could refer to General Scott's Forty-eight years (1807 to 1855). Scott was made a Lieutenant General in 1855 but he, for good reason, liked an 1847 date better. It is not likely its message can be "Alexander Departed 1855". A SNAFU could be that the Board was so confident the Main building would be completed in 1855 that they told Gilbert Cameron in 1852 to set the date in stone.

AROUND THE CAMPUS



New Health Care Services model revealed to the medical staff at AFRH-W.



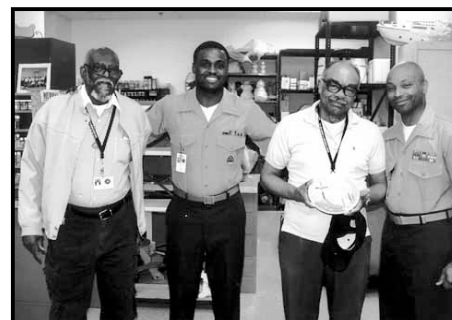
Tim Cox, explains the "One Model Process" to residents and staff during a recent campus briefing.



Home resident James Adams takes advantage of the question and answer time session with the COO.



Left: Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Terry Scott meets AFRH-W residents during a recent visit to our campus. Right: The Ceramics Studio has become a favorite spot for many of the activity duty tours visiting our campus. U.S. Marines from the Defense Logistic Agency located at Ft. Belvoir take a break in their tour to visit with home residents Alex Winston and Robert Donalson.



AIRPOCKETS



"Here in Washington, DC, traffic is bumper-to-bumper, southbound on I-395. Meanwhile, no delays reported inside the AFRH Scott-Sheridan tunnel."

SEASONS

by Leslea Pidgeon

The seasons come and go, the
year round -

In spring the pretty flowers do
bloom and fall the leave come
swirling down - in winter the
snow is on the ground - and
summer is all green abound.

A MUST READ

On Safari With George

By George Lynch

The three intrepid COFFEE HUNTERS continue on their way via metro to Java City, DC. This safari starts, as do all outside the main (Eagle) gate of the AFRH-Washington. Just reminder, be sure that you have your ID card for the metro and also be sure that you have your ID card for the Home. Remember this area is under higher security and you do want to be let back in after your trip.

This trip will involve good coffee and shopping. We will utilize the Red line of the metro again, but this time you will be heading in the opposite direction than in the past two safaris. A good idea is to always check the station lists posted on the posts on either side of the train platform. If the station you are seeking is on the side of the platform where the arrow points you are good to go. This trip will be to Wheaton Plaza Shopping Mall.

Out the gate to bus #60 north and Fort Totten, or bus H8 west-bound to Brookland. At either station you will board the metro rail to the Wheaton Mall. You will see signs directing you to the mall. When you get to the mall (you will find that this is a very large mall), proceed to the center and there you will find an information booth. You may enquire the directions to the food court. You will be directed to an escalator that goes down to the lower level and then take a right off



George Lynch, William Abernathy and Ed Stiles tip there coffee cups to Cinnabon.

the escalator and you will see Cinnabon. They have outstanding coffee and of course great pastries.

There are a variety of shops in the mall, including a new Target store. There is also a J. C. Penny and Hechts for clothing and appliances. The food court has approximately 20 different types of offerings from Italian to Japanese. Because we three are hunting for coffee joints, we do not rate the food, although we enjoyed all the meals we have eaten at this particular location.

In addition, to the stores in the mall, they also have a mini-mall containing a Circuit City and several other shops. On the back side of the mall is a multiplex theater with the latest first run movies. So a trip like this can include coffee, lunch, shopping and a movie.

Hope you enjoy this trip!

Clowns

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House, all they have to do is go to bed in a room outfitted with a private bath, cable TV and a telephone with voice mail. They can stop in the kitchen in the morning and have a bowl of cereal, toast and other breakfast items free of charge.

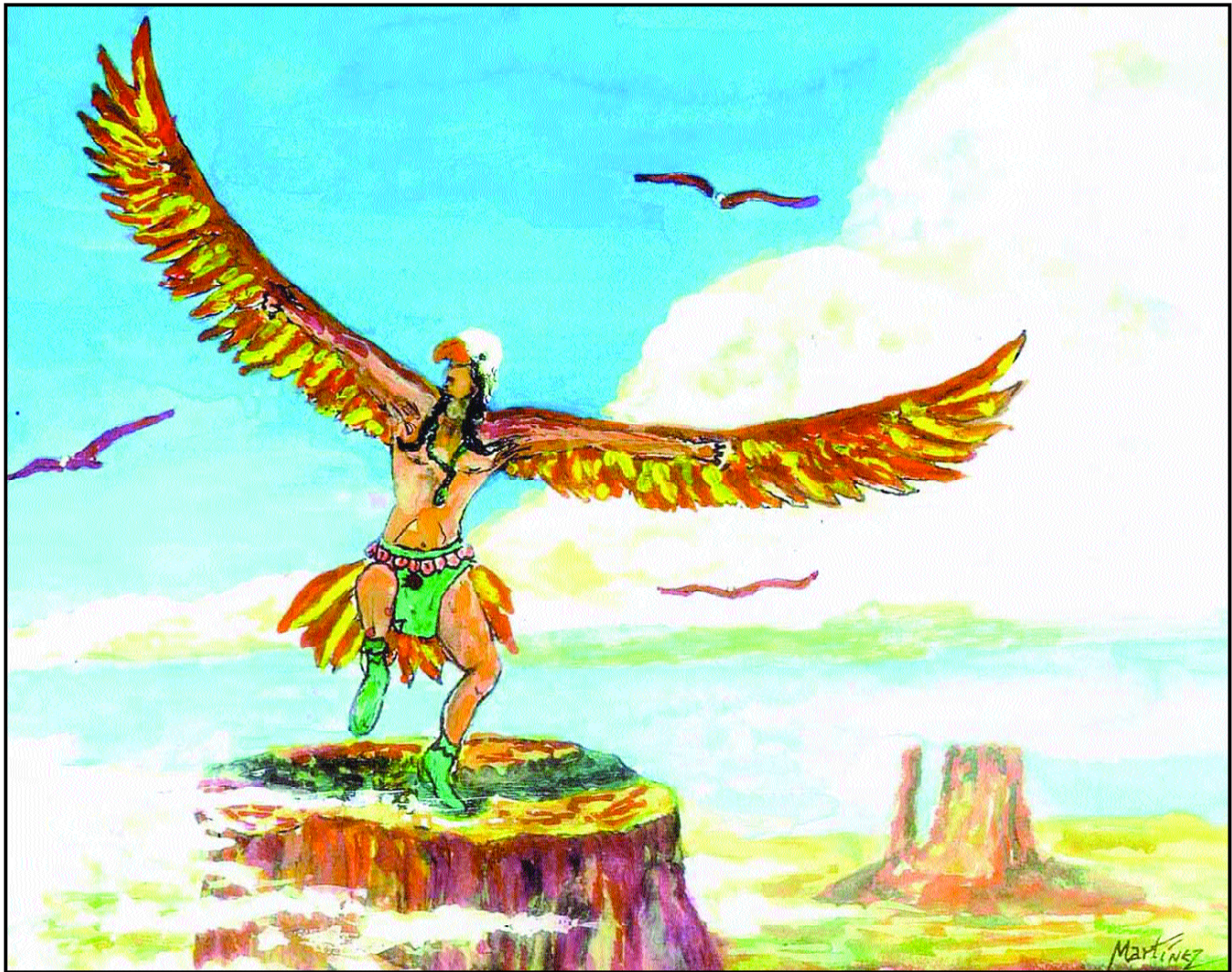
"We even have fresh fruit for them so they can just grab something and head out the door for the hospital," Wilson said. "We also provide them with phone cards so they can call their loved ones, and stationery so they can write their loved ones and thank-you notes. If they need financial assistance, we refer them to the Army Emergency Relief."

Guests with children are provided toys, and the staff will set up childcare for them. "And we have volunteers who can take them shopping or will baby sit for them," Wilson noted. "We also provide them with certified checks for the commissary where they can get food at no cost to them. We provide for all the needs they have while they're here."

She said the average length of stay for guest is six to eight weeks. "We cater to all the ICUs (intensive care units), but our populace is predominantly cancer patients," Wilson noted. "Of course, right now, there're mainly family members of soldiers wounded during Operation Iraq Freedom."

Fisher House arranged the clown's visit to Walter Reed. "By bringing in the clowns, I'd like to think we lifted their spirits for the day," Wilson said. "I know it's very difficult for them on a day-to-day basis to go in and out of that hospital to visit their loved ones. I know it's difficult for them to keep that smile going every day."

"Having the clowns here allows them to have a little happiness during a very tragic time," Wilson said. "Hopefully, we're lifting their spirits."



**Artwork
courtesy
of
Mike
Martinez**